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FORCE PROTECTION FACT
Homeland Security Dept.
readiness information:
www.ready.gov

Force protection takes many forms. From left: (1) In the immediate aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks, German Polizei helped secure U.S. military installations. (2) A Navy SeaBee welds structural steel at the NATO School in Oberammergau. (3) Health maintenance is essential to the effort. (4) A German Bundeswehr troop inspects a vehicle entering Garmisch's Sheridan Kaserne. (5) A military working dog trains to augment security on area installations.

FROM THE EDITOR

Force protection takes many forms
*Constant vigilance, community involvement
crucial to threat deterrent effort*

By Hugh C. McBride

One moment in the life of the 6th Area Support Group:

- On Garmisch's Artillery Kaserne, a German contractor works on a fence around the Breitenau Housing Area.
- In the Panzer Fitness Center, a Marine pushes through the final repetitions of a workout.
- On Patch Barracks, a military spouse takes the family dog out for a lap or two around the installation.
- In an office on Kelley Barracks, a civilian employee rolls her eyes and deletes an e-mail from her brother-in-law entitled "Bill Gates wants to give you MILLION\$\$\$!"
- And somewhere between Patch and Robinson Barracks, a shuttle bus driver makes a right-hand turn.

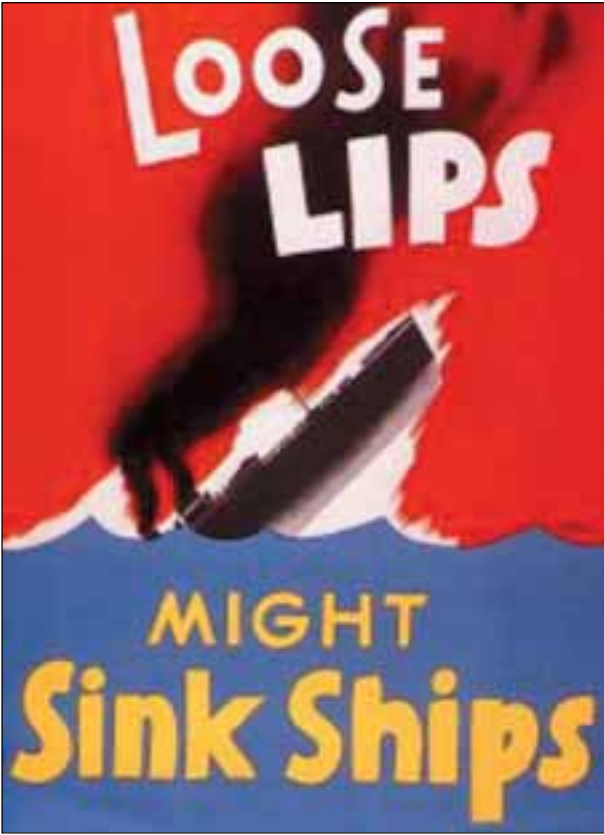
The common thread that unites each of these disparate incidents? Force protection.

Once upon a time in the American military, force protection policy could be rather neatly encapsulated in the rhyming rejoinder emblazoned upon the World War II-era image that accompanies this article.

At a time when the enemy was "over there" – and the distinction between friend and foe was a much clearer one – operational security for most Americans could be expressed in that time-honored exclamation of librarians far and wide: "sshhh!"

More than 50 years and one long Cold War later, the threat has become much more insidious and the responsibility of all community members to make force protection a part of their everyday lives is even more essential.

This special edition of The Citizen was designed with two purposes in mind: a *practical* one (to provide a "one-



Posters such as this and the ones on page 1 exhorted U.S. citizens to uphold operational security during World War II.

The threat is insidious, and making force protection a part of our everyday lives is essential.

stop shopping" handbook of tips, suggestions and areas of awareness for all community members) and a *philosophical* one (to emphasize not only the degree to which force protection concerns permeate our daily lives but also the necessity of every individual to actively participate in the effort). For those who still insist that force protection is best left to the men and women with the weapons at our installation gates, I ask: Do you ever engage in any of the following activities?

- Log onto a government computer?
- Shop, eat or just sight-see "on the economy?"
- Pay a bill with a check or credit card?
- Drive to work – or take the bus?
- Walk on a military installation?

These are just a few of the myriad everyday activities in which force protection plays – or should play – a role.

From taking alternate routes for regular travel, to familiarizing ourselves with the policies that govern use of government computers, to being on the alert for anything "out of the ordinary" in our neighborhoods, we need to incorporate force protection into our lives both at home (wherever our homes may be) and when traveling.

The pages that follow offer a glimpse into the state of force protection in the 6th ASG – what is being done to keep our installations and those who live and work on them safe, and what needs to be done to maintain this security.

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